

MINUTES OF  
YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4 2009

ATTENDEES:

Karen Brennan	Annie Maguire
Christine Wood	Jared Kindy
Dan Wood	Meghan Moore
Jo-Anne Sawitsky	Diane Barston
Sarah Smith	Mackenzie Begley
Caity Lowden	Geoff Ball
Kate Fitzmaurice	Lynnie Strother

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The meeting was called to order by Karen Brennan at 7:35PM. Minutes of October meeting were read and approved – motion to approve made by Christine Wood and seconded by Jo-Anne Sawitsky. A DHS rep for Channel 79 was videotaping tonight's meeting.

New student members were introduced

TOPS Events:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Bowling Night 10/23 – Held at Rip Van Winkle Lanes – we had 210 attendees at this event.

7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Tokeneke Fair Night 10/23 – 450 attendees at this event, with 60 being non-registered TOPS members. A discussion was held on how to prevent kids from coming in to TOPS events when they aren't registered. Perhaps deadline for registration should be extended. Alicia sent out a letter regarding this. Perhaps these kids shouldn't be allowed to stay at the event, since pick-up and drop is a problem – we have no contact information forms for emergencies – which can cause legal problems for the Town. We will hold further discussion with the TOPS Board and the Town Administrator on how to handle kids without TOPS registration at events.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Afternoon at the Movies 11/2 - 114 attended Michael Jackson's "This Is It" movie. The movie was good, but not for young kids.

Halloween Window Painting 10/24 – Painting of various storefronts was done on a rainy weekend from Saturday into Sunday. There were 10 winning teams (mostly girls) in various categories, and two judges from the Darien Arts Center. A Winner's Reception was held at TD Bank. Brandman's Paint requested that they participate in this next year.

Thriller Night Dance 11/13 – "Thriller" video projected on gym wall during dance, very creative decorations as well as very creative outfits.

7-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mistletoe Magic 12/4 – Invitations will be mailed out to this event next week.

Community-Wide Movie 11/13 – “A Christmas Carol” will be held – and we need six volunteers to help with donated Christmas Gifts for Social Services’ annual gift drive.

Discussion took place on how to best publicize activities in addition to e-blasts. Press releases are submitted to newspapers; for open-to-the-public events, postings are placed on [www.kidsevents.com](http://www.kidsevents.com); the new, up-to-the-minute [www.patch.com](http://www.patch.com) is another avenue as well as [www.suzysaid.com](http://www.suzysaid.com).

Parent Awareness 11/4 – Chris Bogart spoke on “Organizing Your Family”. There was a very good turnout for this event. Christine Wood will represent the Youth Commission at next Parent Awareness meeting.

#### New Program Ideas:

Town-wide “Day of Play” – “Community Wide Festival” – “Healthy Awareness Day”  
Questions on what age group to gear this program toward. We may not get older kids, but they can volunteer if they don’t attend. It should be fitness-health oriented showcasing fun ways to keep fit such as dance, sports, jumping rope, hula hoops. We could also have a “healthy nutrition” exhibit using different caterers.

We could have entertainment before this community-wide event. A sub-committee will be formed for this with adults and students to brainstorm ideas. Christine Wood asked what to present to draw older kids to this event. Also, we could gear this to “not all people are into sports,” in a way de-emphasizing competitive sports.

Darien Arts Festival is not canceled, but the Newington Children’s Theatre is.

#### Asset-Based Study:

Faculty attended this presentation in the morning and it was very well attended. The youth presentation had one student in attendance so as a result, there will also an evening meeting at Town Hall on 11/10 for the youth. The meeting for the community-at-large on 10/12 was well attended and quite informative according to Meghan Moore who attended. Both Sarah and Kendall are on the Youth Steering Committee. Karen Brennan suggested that this be done as a school assembly and not interfere with academic time.

#### Budget Process:

We are looking at a 0 percent increase in budget this year or a reduction in spending. Our big ticket events cover their costs themselves. Youth Commission doesn’t have “essential programs”, but we do provide social activities. Our programs don’t cost that much to matter budget-wise.

Other Business:

Adjustments to Youth Commission Meeting 2010 Schedule were handed out. Motion to approve schedules made by Diane and seconded by Meghan. Wednesday, December 2 meeting may be changed to December 9 due to a personal conflict Alicia has pending. The group supported the change if needed.

Community Council at DHS – did any one from YC attend?? Answer was NO.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Angela M. Clark  
Recording Secretary